



September 18, 2019

Sarah Seymour  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 80324  
411A Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

[80324-74375310@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:80324-74375310@requests.muckrock.com)

**RE: Right to Know Law Request  
DOH-RTKL-MS-119-2019**

Dear Ms. Seymour:

This letter acknowledges receipt by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) of your written request for records under the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law (RTKL), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101-67.3104. I received your request on September 12, 2019. You requested:

1. Any and all records reflecting an agreement for purchase, acquisition, or licensing of, or permission to use, test, or evaluate Appriss's systems or services, including any product or service offered;
2. Any and all memoranda of understanding between the Pennsylvania Department of Health and any outside entity regarding the PA PDMP.
3. Any and all records including information about the algorithm that determines risk scores in the PA PDMP, including but not limited to its source code, developer documentation, and operator manuals (e.g. NarxScores, Overdose Risk Scores);
4. Any and all research, technical reports, or internal audits that define and/or evaluate the PA PDMP effectiveness or performance;
5. Any and all research, technical reports, or internal audits that evaluate the Appriss risk assessment tool's effectiveness or performance
6. Any document containing a full list of the data fields in the PA PDMP;

7. Any and all records of de-identified red flag algorithm outputs (e.g. provider red flag, pharmacy red flag, 40 MED red flag) and patient behavioral red flags (e.g., anxious patient demeanor, distance between prescriber and dispenser) with prescriber/dispenser training documentation on how to address the red flags;
8. Any record showing the number of patients in the PA PDMP by quarter and year (2006-present);
9. Any record showing the number of prescribers and pharmacists in the PA PDMP by quarter and year (2006-present);
10. Any and all records containing Pennsylvania Department of Health analysis of whether and/or how the PA PDMP has impacted public health in Pennsylvania (e.g. decrease or increase in overdose rates, "doctor shopping," prescribing volume, etc.) over time;
11. Any and all records 2006-present of notification to law enforcement about information in the PA PDMP Medical Review Group or other channels, including but not limited to how many times law enforcement agencies have been notified about information in the PA PDMP, and which agencies have been notified;
12. Any and all internal policy, memoranda, and/or training documentation describing how entities outside of Pennsylvania Department of Health, including law enforcement, may obtain access to information in the PA PDMP, including but not limited to the rules, regulations, and procedures of the Medical Review Group;
13. The legal authorization for sharing PA PDMP information with the law enforcement entities; and
14. Any and all records showing how often law enforcement entities or individuals have requested information or records from the PA PDMP, or made electronic queries of the system, including but not limited to what types of information or records have been requested, which agencies have made the requests, the percent of requests that were accepted versus denied, temporal trends, the form of the request (e.g. subpoena, warrant, etc.), and whether the requests were granted or denied.

This is an interim response, not a final response, to your RTKL request. Under the provisions of 65 P.S. § 67.902(b)(2), you are hereby notified that, because a legal review of the records potentially responsive to your request are required, the Department will require up to an additional 30 days, i.e., until October 21, 2019, in which to provide a final response to your request. *See* 65 P.S. § 67.902(a)(4).

The Department's final response will include a total for the estimated or actual fees owed, if applicable. Due to the reasons cited above for requiring additional time to provide a final response to your request, we are unable to determine that estimate at this time. Should your actual fees meet or exceed \$100, the Department will require cleared prepayment prior to releasing any responsive records.

Should you have any questions regarding the status of your request or this letter, please contact the undersigned and reference RTKL Request #DOH-RTKL-MSC-119-2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa M. Keefer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lisa M. Keefer  
Agency Open Records Officer  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
625 Forster Street  
825 Health and Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0701

Date of Mailing: 09/18/2019